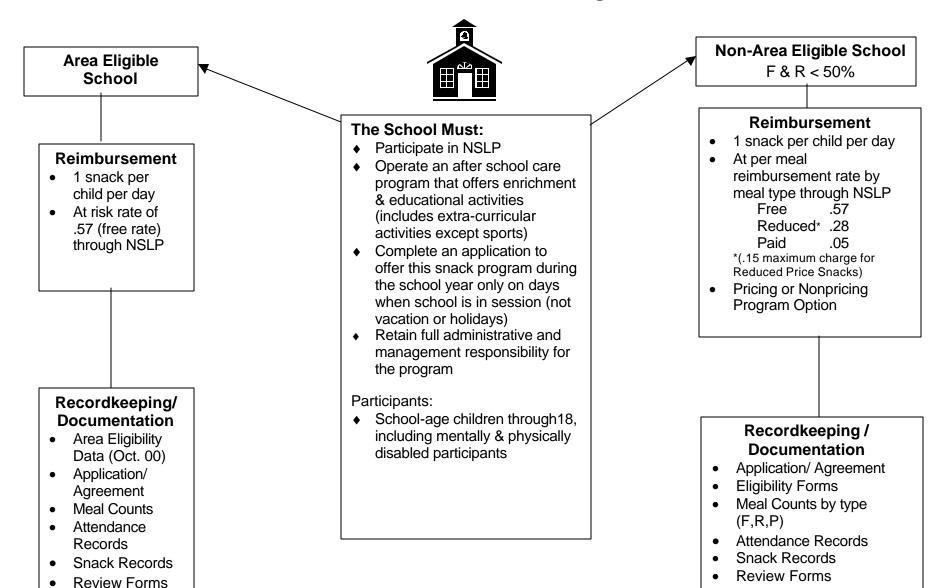
# After School Care Programs in the National School Lunch Program



# Reimbursement for snacks in After School Care Programs In the National School Lunch Program

Public Law 105-336 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998

# **FACT SHEET**

# **Eligible Programs:**

To be eligible to qualify for reimbursement under the School Lunch Program, after school care programs must meet the following three criteria.

1. The program must be run by a school or school district that operates the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Any school that operates the NSLP may be reimbursed for snacks served on or after October 1, 1998 to eligible children in eligible after school programs.

The after school program must be operated by the school and not some other organization, although the school does not have to use the school's personnel or regular school facilities. The school must retain final administrative and management responsibility for the program, including the program site. The school or school district must be the party that enters into the agreement with the State Agency and must assume full responsibility for meeting all program requirements. The school may, if it wishes, arrange with another organization to perform the day-to-day operations.

- 2. The purpose of these programs must be to provide care in after school settings. The programs must be organized to provide children with regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment. A roster or sign-in sheet must be kept to determine that children are present on a given day.
- 3. Eligible programs must include educational or enrichment activities. Any extracurricular activities such as the school choir, debate team, drama society, et al. can qualify to participate under this provision. Organized athletic programs *may not* be included in this provision.

# **Eligible Sites**:

**Eligible 50 Percent Areas:** Sites located in areas served by a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced price meals are eligible to receive reimbursement at the free rate. This rate of reimbursement will be for snacks served to all children eligible for snacks, regardless of each individual child's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. (See attached Site Eligibility List)

Non-50 Percent Areas: Sites in areas that are not served by a 50 percent school must count meals and claim reimbursement by type (free, reduced and paid), and must have documentation of eligibility for all meals served free or at a reduced price. Sites have the option of implementing a Pricing Program or a Nonpricing Program. In the Pricing Program, students are charged a fee for the snack based on their eligibility status; free eligible students receive their snack at no charge, reduced price eligible students may be charged no more than 15 cents and overincome students pay the full price. Charges for reduced price snacks must not exceed 15 cents, as stipulated in program regulations. In Nonpricing programs, all students receive their snacks at no separate charge and they snacks are claimed in their respective categories- paid, free and reduced.

#### Licensing:

After School Care Programs may be subject to Child Care Licensing Regulations. Licensing is required of programs that provide care, protection and supervision of children ages 16 and under which are designed to ensure wholesome growth and educational experiences outside of their homes for periods of less than 24 hours a day in a place that operates on a regular or continuous basis. The Child Care Licensing office in Waterbury should be contacted to determine of licensing is required.

#### **Reimbursement:**

Schools may claim reimbursement for one snack, per child, per day. Children are eligible to participate through age 18, and if a child's nineteenth birthday occurs during the school year, reimbursement may be claimed for that student during the remainder of the school year. Reimbursement may be claimed for individuals, regardless of age, who are determined by the State Agency to be mentally or physically disabled.

# **Times of Operation:**

This change in the law applies only to programs that provide care for children after their school day has ended. Under no circumstances may snacks be reimbursed in programs operated before or during the child's school day. Schools are not eligible to receive reimbursement for snacks served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods.

However, a child's eligibility is based on when their scheduled school day ends, and not on whether or not the school continues in session. For example, if a kindergarten program ends at noon but the children remain in school under a care program as described above, snacks served to these children may be reimbursed under this provision. The same would be true of older children enrolled in schools that have split sessions. If children remain on campus to participate in an approved after school care program; they may receive reimbursable snacks even though the school continues to operate a later academic session.

#### **Content of Meals:**

Snacks served under this provision must meet the meal pattern requirements for snacks set for in 7 CFR section 210.10. See the attached "Meal Pattern Requirements for the After School Snack Program". Portions for children ages 13 through 18 shall be no less than the portions stipulated for children ages 6 to 12. It is recommended that schools offer larger portions for older children (ages 13 to 18) based on their greater food energy requirements.

# **Additional Requirements:**

Schools must complete the application form to participate in the after school care snack program.

# **Recordkeeping:**

At a minimum, school food authorities participating under this provision must maintain the following records.

- If all meals are claimed free, documentation that the site located in an area served by a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are certified eligible for free or reduced price meals. (Site Eligibility List)
- For all other sites, documentation of free and reduced price eligibility for all children for whom free and reduced price snacks are claimed. (Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications)
- Meal counts (total for sites qualifying for free reimbursement for all children; meal counts by type for other sites). (Meal Count Sheets)
- Documentation of individual children's attendance on a daily basis. (Daily Attendance Roster)
- Documentation of compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements. (Snack Record)

This provision represents an important new initiative to bring nutritious meals to the nation's children. Schools are encouraged to participate to ensure these benefits reach eligible children.

#### **Attachments:**

See Site Map for ASP Site Eligibility Lists See Site Map for ASP Meal Pattern Requirements